



HOWARD COUNTY CEMETERY PRESERVATION ADVISORY BOARD

3430 Court House Drive ■ Ellicott City, Maryland 21043

Administered by the Department of Planning and Zoning

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July 2016 Minutes

Tuesday, July 12, 2016; 10:00 -11:30 a.m.

The quarterly meeting of the Cemetery Preservation Advisory Board was held on Tuesday, July 12, 2016 at 3430 Court House Drive, Ellicott City, Maryland.

Members Present: Mike Bennett, Fred Dorsey, Liz Larney, Dottie Moore, Matthew Smithson

Absent: Lee Preston, Chip Plitt, David Zinner

Staff Present: Beth Burgess, Ken Short, Yvette Zhou

Public: Edward Glawe

General Topics

- **Budget Report:**

The budget had been approved for \$5,000 to provide grants to historic cemeteries in need of clean-up or restoration.

Ms. Burgess spoke to Ms. McGuckian about the Coalition to Protect MD Burial Sites being the recipient of that grant for distribution but the Coalition is in mid-process in changing their non-profit status to be more donation oriented so the timing is bad for them to take on that role.

Ms. Burgess just asked the Howard County Genealogical Society to be the recipient to the grant but has not discussed with them in detail nor has a reply by them.

Mr. Zinner was absent but shared with Ms. Burgess prior to the meeting suggesting CPAB seeks partners in this grant opportunity to raise more local awareness and to support the owners seeking the grants. Mr. Zinner suggested reaching out to the Master Gardeners to be available to help with creating native planting plans for sites. He suggested having resources made available and discounts for cemetery work. For example, local nurseries could offer discount on native plants; there could be a resource or discount on monument repairs. There could be matching funding to have this grant double in its amount.

Mr. Dorsey suggested when identifying the program administrator, it is important to keep in mind accountability and responsibility of the recipient to carry out the mission of the Cemetery Preservation Advisory Board. The Board should offer very clear parameters and criteria to the recipient of this grant. Mr. Dorsey suggested the max grant awarded per project should not be preset but rather be determined by the Board based on individual projects. A good collaborating partner would be the Eagle Scout to build wooden benches or install signs to educate the public.

Others felt a maximum of \$500 grants could at least provide 10 cemeteries support. Ms. Larney inquired of the cost to repair headstones. Mr. Dorsey shared the four stones at Belmont were only foundation and footing work and the cost was \$1100 total. Mr. Bennett answered Mr. Smithson's question about local monument companies by suggesting Mr. Walt Tegeler of W.S.

Tegeler Monument Co and Mr. Jay Parson of Merkle Monuments as good and reputable people. The Board was in support to these ideas and suggestions and thought nurseries, arborists, surveyors, master gardeners, stone masons along with a suggestion of volunteers would all be helpful to coordinate in advance as a resource for cemetery owners.

Ms. Moore thought having a few Community Forums to promote education and outreach would be a good start. She expressed concern that those that need to know the information or opportunity are often left out of the loop so more networking and reaching out to older congregations would be helpful. She suggested a community clean-up day that should include the community, schools and courts.

Mr. Smithson liked the suggestion of having this meeting at the library. Mr. Dorsey discussed the positive attendance of 50+ people for both his His-story day cemetery presentation at Belmont and for Mr. Kuttler's talk at Miller Library. Mr. Short agreed that networking created a group for the future lobby of laws and legislation for the protection of cemeteries.

The Board discussed what County departments could provide to support a clean-up suggesting paper bags. Ms. Larney gave a summary to the plan that she thought could be launched in Sept with opening the grant and have the deadline be in the winter so that the grant projects could be done in the spring with a suggested work completed date of 60 days.

Ms. Larney and Mr. Smithson discussed marketing and the need to advertise and advocate at least three times for people to notice and the need for utilizing Facebook and other modern media tools. Ms. Burgess stated the PIO (Public Information Office) can assist in promoting the grant to the community and she would inquire about a Facebook page.

- 2016 Events & Outreach:

- Hands on History plan: Mr. Zinner suggested having a separate easel with the grant information and forms available at the CPAB table. Mr. Smithson suggested emphasizing the tax credits.
- Website: Ms. Zhou has updated the website. Ms. Burgess showed the Board the revisions.
- Brochure: Ms. Zhou has updated the CPAB brochure. The Board will review after the meeting. Mr. Smithson suggested adding "Great for students seeking service hours" in the Volunteer section of the brochure.
- Mr. Smithson suggested more modern outreach including existing media outlets such as Howard County's Facebook, Twitter, Instagram to piggyback on about CPAB outreach.
- Application feedback: Hold off on the grant application. Begin outreach initiatives focusing on community spring cleanup, presentation and an outreach letter. The letter will include the summary of the inventory, tax credit opportunity, the grant, the spring community clean-up, the community forums and the resources from the County website and maps.

- Cemetery Updates:

- Elm Street Development/ Redds Property:
 - Elm Street Development submitted an alternative compliance form with four topics, one of them being the removal of the graves between lots #33 and #34 to develop a house on each lot. Mr. Plitt shared in advance of the meeting that Elm Street Development needs to follow all laws and regulations regarding the proper procedures to disinter the graves if any are discovered. Mr. Dorsey stated the 2 grave stones were discovered after the ground penetrating radar (GPR) tests. The Board agreed the alternative compliance should be denied and recommends the graves remain in their current location. Mr. Bennett recommended no soil should be scratched without a funeral director on site to flag and identify any remains or soil from a burial. All agreed. Ms. Burgess will send written comments to Land Development requesting the denial of the alternative compliance.

- Rosa Bonheur Memorial Park #37-9:
 - A meeting was held with the developer of the adjacent parcel of Rosa Bonheur, Mr. Mark Levy, on Thursday, June 23. In attendance was Dr. Ball, Ms. Prium, Ms. Fielhauser, Ms. Warden, Mr. Lanier, Mr. Zinner, Ms. McGuckian, Ms. Gowan and Ms. Burgess. The meeting was focused on Mr. Levy's intent for development and his role as a neighbor to Rosa Bonheur. Specific points and agreements were not made. Mr. Levy and Ms. Warden agreed to meet July 25th to discuss more specific neighborly agreements and address a couple of design concerns. Mr. Zinner will attend that meeting.
- Other cemetery updates:
 - Rhine Stone Cemetery #24-7 at Pine Orchard- Mr. Bennett shared an update on the owner, Ms. Sun, moving forward with disinterring the graves in the back of the property where the storm water management facility is not properly honoring the remains. Ms. Sun has the State's Attorney letter and right now they are sending notices out to any possible relatives for notification. The plan is to have a plaque installed in the location of the existing graves and the remains will be moved to Meadowridge Memorial Park.
 - John Day Burial- Mr. Glawe created a Mosaic survey of the John Day Burial in Ellicott City where 4 Civil War soldiers are thought to be buried. Due to change of ownership in surrounding property, the site may have been disturbed. Ms. Burgess sent a letter to adjacent neighbors about the cemetery being confirmed in the County's view as a burial area.
- Laws & Legislation
 - HOA ownership: Mr. Dorsey met with Councilman Weinstein on July 11. Mr. Dorsey left the meeting early and continue discussions at September's meeting. Mr. Dorsey would like to see the Board focus more on laws and development review. Ms. Burgess agreed that legislation and law is where the effectiveness will be for cemetery protection but believes CPAB is already reviewing plans that involve cemeteries.

Additional Items:

None

Meeting Adjourned at 11:40am.

Next Steps/Action Items:

- Board will provide feedback on brochure and poster (Hands-on-History & Outreach) within a week. Prints will be completed prior August 11th, Howard County Fair date.
- Ms. Burgess to inquire about Facebook options.
- Mr. Zinner to update us on the July 25th Rosa Bonheur meeting.
- Ms. Burgess to follow-up with grant recipient inquiries.
- Ms. Larney to inquire with her office about being the grant recipient.
- Mr. Zinner and Mr. Larney to volunteer August 11th at Fair.

Upcoming meetings

- Tuesday, September 13, 2016 at 10am in George Howard building
- Tuesday, November 8, 2016 at 10am in George Howard building